

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

September 7, 2012

Mr. Cecil E. Roberts
President
United Mine Workers of America
18354 Quantico Gateway Drive
Triangle, Virginia 22172-1777

Dear Mr.  Roberts,

As you know, I have long stood with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) as we fought side-by-side for better wages, safer working conditions, and employment and retirement security for coal miners in West Virginia and throughout the Nation. The hard working men and women of our coalfields truly are the backbone of our economy and will always have my full support.

I know that UMWA employees and retirees face substantial uncertainty as a result of the recent bankruptcy filing by Patriot Coal Corporation, which is why I sent the attached letter to Patriot's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the company's employees and retirees. As indicated in that letter, I firmly believe that any efforts on behalf of the company to strip employees and retirees of the benefits they have earned and that were promised to them would be severely unjust.

I will be closely monitoring this situation as the bankruptcy process moves forward and want you to know that I will work with you and do anything possible to assist you in protecting these benefits. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

Be well, Jay